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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

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Albanian Leaders Begin to Reappear

Albanian party/government leaders are beginning to appear in public after nearly a month's unexplained absence. Premier Shehu and Deputy Premier Carcani attended 8 March celebrations in Fier, while Internal Affairs Minister Kadri Hasbiu and Assembly President Abdyl Kellezi attended the 25th anniversary ceremonies of the founding of the Albanian Women's Union in Tirana. Still absent are Minister of Defense Beqir Balluku and Party First Secretary Enver Hoxha.

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COMMENT: The reason for the unusual absence of a large number of the top level Albanian officials in the latter half of February and early March, remains unclear. However, continued regime urgings of the masses to greater efforts and "readiness" (including Carcani's 8 March speech at Fier) may indicate the absence was in some way connected with Tirana's difficulties in "revolutionizing" Albania.

Yugoslavs "Stir-up" CIA Scare

Belgrade's preoccupation with "foreign intelligence activity" in Yugoslavia has gained a good deal of publicity in the last few weeks. The expulsion of doctoral fellow, William Lockwood on trumped-up charges of espionage ten days before his scheduled departure is a good example of the regime's determination to "dramatize" the alleged threat of American intelligence activities. Moreover, George Marris' book "The C.I.A. and the American Trade Union Movement" is being published in Belgrade--complete with a preface stating, "the book recounts in the analytical tongue of facts, the innermost side of an imperialism which is robustly and brutally imposing itself upon the world under the garb of some messiah or other." Apparently demonstrating the degree to which the "CIA-scare" has penetrated the Yugoslav political system, the Serbian Assembly recently announced that some of its members carried out an investigation into the problems of security in the communes and work organizations.

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COMMENT: In the final analysis the whole "scare" may be designed to divert attention from Yugoslavia's economic problems, nationality difficulties, and to justify military spending.

Life Magazine President to Tour Eastern Europe

James Linen, the president of Life magazine, has scheduled visits to Rumania, Hungary and Poland next week. Linen will visit Bucharest on March 19th, Budapest on the 21st and Warsaw on the 25th of March and will be accompanied by his wife, another couple and the Life representative in Vienna. Linen hopes to see as many high-level Eastern European officials as possible, but he does not intend to publish the results of these meetings unless the official concerned wants the meeting publicized.

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SS Constitution To Visit Bulgaria

The first visit of the SS Constitution to the Bulgarian Black Sea port of Varna has been confirmed for 30 March. Arrangements were made last year between American Export Isbrandtsen Lines and Balkantourist for an annual visit by a US flag passenger ship to a Bulgarian resort port. Organized tour groups will be available for those passengers who are interested in the sights of Sofia.

In addition, the maiden voyage of the Bulgarian passenger ship Varna brought 150 West German tourists to Bulgaria on 8 March. The Varna was chartered by the Europa Travel Agency in West Germany, but is manned by a Bulgarian crew.

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COMMENT: Apparently, Bulgaria plans to continue expanding its tourist industry which earns much needed hard currency but also exposes Bulgarians to the "ideological infections" of the West.

Commander of the Sixth Fleet to Visit Yugoslavia

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The Yugoslavs have approved the visit of Vice Admiral Martin, Commander of the Sixth Fleet, to the port of Split.

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COMMENT: No date has been set, but the visit probably will take place in April. A US destroyer visited Split in January in the first US fleet visit to Yugoslavia since events stemming from the Arab-Israeli war forced the cancellation of two such calls. The April visit may help blunt the effect of Yugoslav press assertions that the Sixth Fleet is a part of a carefully planned "imperialist offensive" in the Mediterranean.

Yugoslavs Purchase Soviet Aircraft

Generalexport, Yugoslavia's largest foreign commerce enterprise, has purchased two Soviet TU-134's plus spare parts. The planes will be used for charter flights between Western Europe and Yugoslav tourist centers. The agreement for the \$4.5 million deal provides that General-export can trade the planes in on larger TU-154's two years after the latter plane is in production. [REDACTED]

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COMMENT: The purchase of the TU-134's is related to the bankruptcy of the Yugoslav airline Adria Aviopromet, which could result in cancellation of charter bookings and a subsequent loss of considerable foreign exchange earnings. The acquisition of the planes strengthens Generalexport's bid in its competition with the Yugoslav airline, JAT, to absorb Adria.

Cambodian Heir Presumptive Completes Czechoslovak Education

Sihamoni Norodom, son of Cambodian Prince Sihanouk, appears to have completed his education in Czechoslovakia. He was received by the Minister of Education on 24 February and expressed his gratitude for the care he received in Czechoslovakia. Presumably he heads for home and royal duties. [REDACTED]

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NOTE: THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ABOVE REPRESENT
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